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Letter dated 12 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit the report of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence in preparation for the 6th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and held in Luanda on 10 February 2016 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated to all members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Albert **Shingiro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Report of the meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence in preparation for the 6th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

Luanda, Angola, 10 February 2016

The meeting of the ICGLR Committee of Ministers of Defence was held in Luanda, Angola, on 10 February 2016.

The meeting was held to assess the security and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region, particularly the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic and the Republic of South Sudan.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Defence or their representatives from the following member States: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zambia.

Also in attendance were the Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces of ICGLR member States, the ICGLR Executive Secretary, the Chair of the Regional Coordinating Committee of Intelligence Services, the Commander of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM) and the Coordinator of the Joint Intelligence Fusion Centre.

1. Opening session

The meeting was officially opened by the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Angola, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, who welcomed his fellow Ministers of Defence and all the delegates to Luanda and urged them to help in the efforts to resolve the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Burundi. He noted that the resolution of these conflicts is essential to establishing an environment of peace, stability and development in those countries and in the region and to enable the region to harness its vast potential for the betterment of the people.

He reminded the participants about their previous decisions and those taken by the ICGLR Summits of Heads of State and Government and emphasized the importance of working hard towards their full implementation.

He reiterated the Republic of Angola's continued unwavering commitment in doing its utmost to advance the strategic objectives of peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region.

The meeting was also addressed by Ntumba Luaba, the ICGLR Executive Secretary, who noted the positive developments registered so far in the region while emphasizing the ongoing security and humanitarian challenges in the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of South Sudan.

He further expressed appreciation to the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Angola and, through him, to the people and Government of Angola for its continued leadership in the quest for sustained peace, security, stability and development in the region and for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities provided for the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The meeting of the Committee of Ministers of Defence adopted the following agenda:

i. Consideration of the report of the meeting of Chiefs of Defence Staff/ Forces

ii. Briefing by the Minister of Defence of DRC

iii. Briefing by the Minister of Defence of South Sudan

iv. Briefing by the Minister of Defence of Burundi

v. Briefing by the Minister of Defence of the Central African Republic

vi. Briefing by the Minister of Defence of the Sudan

vii. Preparation and adoption of the final report

3. Adoption of the report of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces

The report of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces was adopted by the representatives of all member States except the Republic of Rwanda, who walked out of the meeting before the adoption of the report in protest against the inclusion of allegations of aggression against Burundi by Rwanda in the report.

4. Briefing by the Ministers of Defence

The Committee of Ministers of Defence of ICGLR received comprehensive briefings on the security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of South Sudan and the Republic of Sudan.

5. Recommendations

Having considered the report of the meeting of the ICGLR Chiefs of Defence Staff/Forces and having received detailed briefings and contributions from various ministers, and in the spirit of cooperation in the promotion of peace and security in the region, the Committee of ICGLR Ministers of Defence made the following recommendations:

On DRC

i. *Commended the Government of DRC for its capability in conducting operations against the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) and the Allied Democratic Forces*;

ii. *Welcomed the signing of the new technical arrangement with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic*

of the Congo as decided by the ICGLR Summit of 18 May 2015 to eradicate FDLR and other negative forces in the eastern DRC;

iii. *Noted that, with regard to the repatriation of the remaining ex-combatants of M23 in Rwanda and Uganda since the Summit of 18 May 2015, only 13 were repatriated in December 2015, and recommended sanctions to the leaders of ex-combatants of M23 who are blocking repatriation.*

On the Republic of South Sudan

i. *Welcomed the work of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the recent developments towards the realization of the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity;*

ii. *Called for the quick arrival to Juba of Riek Machar to hasten the final formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity;*

iii. *Appealed to the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to the Government of South Sudan to facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced people and to address the worsening humanitarian conditions in some parts of the country.*

On the Republic of Burundi

i. *Called upon all stakeholders to commit to the inter-Burundian dialogue as the best means to consolidate peace and unity for the people of Burundi;*

ii. *Recommended that a committee of the ICGLR Ministers of Defence visit Burundi and Rwanda together with EJVM and that the latter conduct a verification mission in both countries on the allegations.*

On the Central African Republic

i. *Called upon ICGLR member States to urgently expedite the nomination of military experts, as directed by the Summit in Luanda, to assess the needs for the reconstruction of the armed forces of the Central African Republic;*

ii. *Recommended that the ICGLR executive secretariat develop clear terms of reference for the military experts mission to the Central African Republic;*

iii. *Recommended that the ICGLR military experts mission should start on 10 March 2016 and last for five days;*

iv. *Recommended that the Chair of the Regional Inter-ministerial Committee facilitate the implementation of the ICGLR Summit decision on convening a joint ICGLR/Economic Community of Central African States summit;*

v. *Called upon the United Nations to lift the arms embargo on the Central African Republic and appealed to all ICGLR member States to support this call, and further called upon African members of the United Nations Security Council to help to advance this important call*;

vi. *Appealed to the international community to assist the CAR Government to address the humanitarian situation*;

vii. *Highlighted the need to neutralize the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and noted the resurgent trade in ivory by LRA*;

viii. *Noted the holding of the first round and forthcoming rerun of elections and encouraged all the stakeholders to remain on the path of democracy*.

On the Republic of Sudan

i. *The Committee of Ministers of Defence, having listened to the briefing from the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Sudan about the negative effects of sanctions by the United States of America on the economy and people of the Sudan, recommended that the sanctions be lifted*;

ii. *The Committee of Ministers of Defence condemned the activities of negative forces in the Republic of Sudan, namely JEM, SLM/M, SLM/A and SPLM/North, and called for their neutralization*.

On EJVM

i. *The meeting adopted the report of EJVM with amendments*;

ii. *Recommended an expert working group composed of all member States to redefine the terms of reference for EJVM in line with the current security situation*;

iii. *Recommended that the EJVM budget be consolidated into the member States' assessed annual contributions to the ICGLR secretariat for the sake of better budget management and accountability*;

iv. *Called for the member States to continue honouring their obligations and to do so as soon as possible; in this regard, the Republic of Angola pledged to pay EJVM an advance of US$ 180,000 as part of its annual contribution*;

v. *Recommended that the Chair of the ICGLR Chiefs of Defence Staff conduct a field visit to the headquarters of EJVM in Goma*.

The Committee of Ministers of Defence commended the Government and the people of Angola for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities that enabled the meeting to be successful.

Done in Luanda, 10 February 2016

(*Signed*) Gen. João Manuel **Gonçalves Lourenço**
Minister of National Defence
Republic of Angola

(*Signed*) Emmanuel **Ntahomvukiye**
Minister of National Defence and
Former Combatants
Republic of Burundi

(*Signed*) Joseph **Bidoumi**
Minister of National Defence
Central African Republic

(*Signed*) Gen. Charles Richard **Mondio**
Minister of National Defence
Republic of Congo

(*Signed*) Crispin **Atama Tabe Mogodi**
Minister of National Defence,
Former Combatants and Reinsertion
Democratic Republic of Congo

(*Signed*) Raychelle **Omamo**
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Defence
Republic of Kenya

Gen. James **Kabarebe**
Minister of Defence
Republic of Rwanda

(*Signed*) 1st Lt. Gen. Awad **Mohamed Ahmad ibn Auof**
Minister of Defence
Republic of the Sudan

(*Signed*) Kuol Manyang **Juuk**
Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs
Republic of South Sudan

(*Signed*) Hussein A. **Mwinyi** (MP)
Minister of Defence and National Service
United Republic of Tanzania

(*Signed*) C. W. C. B. **Kiyonga** (MP)
Minister of Defence
Republic of Uganda

(*Signed*) Richwell **Siamunene** (MP)
Minister of Defence
Republic of Zambia